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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**CONVICTED FELON SENTENCED FOR THE
POSSESSION OF HANDGUN**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that BERNARD BURNETTE, 26, Indianapolis, Indiana, was sentenced to 60 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge John Daniel Tinder following his guilty plea to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. This case was the result of a investigation by the Indianapolis Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and is part of the PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS initiative by the Department of Justice.

BURNETTE, who had prior felony convictions for resisting law enforcement, auto theft-receiving stolen parts, and receiving stolen property, pled guilty to possessing a semi-

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automatic handgun on June 20, 2002. At the sentencing hearing, the government established that Mr. Burnette did not only possess the gun, but that he pointed the gun at a group of three women and three young children. The gun was loaded with ammunition and BURNETTE chambered a round while the gun was pointed at the victims.

According to Assistant United States Attorney James P. Hanlon, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Tinder also imposed 3 years supervised release following BURNETTE's release from imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, BURNETTE will be prohibited from associating with street gangs. He also will be required to attend substance abuse counseling and submit to searches upon request.

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